

REMARKS

The present Amendment and Response is intended to be fully responsive to all points of objections and/or rejections raised by the Examiner and is believed to place the application in condition for allowance. Applicants assert that the present invention is new, non-obvious and useful. Prompt reconsideration and allowance of the claims are respectfully requested.

Status of the Claims

Claims 10-16 are currently pending.

Claims 10 and 11 have been amended.

Claims 1-9 have been cancelled.

Remarks to Claim Rejections

Claim Rejections - 35 USC §103

The July 12, 2010 Final Office Action continues to reject claims 10-15 as being unpatentable under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Yau et al. (Applied Physics Letters 57 (1990), No 27, pp.2913-2915, “Yau”) in view of Asahino et al. (Physical Review Letters 86 (2001) No 19, pp.4334-4337, “Asahino”) and further in view of Jersch et al. (Applied Physics A 64 (1997) pp. 29-32, “Jersch”).

Applicants respectfully disagree with the above rejections, and have presented various counterarguments in the September 10, 2010 filed response and the September 28, 2010 filed supplemental responses.

Notwithstanding the above, and in order to expedite and advance prosecution of the present application, Applicants have amended, without prejudice, claims 10 and 11 to more precisely define distinctive features and elements of the present invention.

Applicants respectfully submit that above amended independent claim 10 includes distinctive features and elements that are not taught, suggested, or even implied by prior art references of record. For example, Yau, Asahino, and Jersch, alone or in combination, does not teach, suggest, or imply intensifying an electromagnetic near-field “created through a surface Plasmon resonance” to such an extent that the vapour is decomposed, and does not teach, suggest, or imply that intensity of the light beam “at the tip of the Atomic Force Microscope” is not enough to decompose the vapour.

Applicants are concurrently submitting an affidavit made under 37 C.F.R §1.132 and signed by the lead inventor to further testify to the above effect.

In addition, Applicants have amended claim 11 to remove the chemical AlMe_3 which was allegedly taught by Yau.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that claim 10 is not obvious over prior art references of record, alone or in combinations, and is patentable.

Claims 11-16 depend from independent claim 10 and include all the distinctive features of claim 10, in addition to other distinguishing features and elements. Claims 11-16 are patentable at least for the same reasons as discussed above with regard to claim 10.

In view of above remarks, Applicants respectfully request that rejections of claims 10-16 made under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) be withdrawn.

Conclusion

In view of the preceding remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that all pending claims are now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the claims are respectfully requested.

Applicants are paying a fee for the filing of a Request for Continued Examination and a fee for the filing of request for a one-month time extension. No other fees are believed to be due in connection with this paper. However, if there are any such fees due, please charge any such fees to the deposit account No. 09-0458.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: November 3, 2010

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